

Wayne is survived by his wife Beth Bakke Stenehjelm and son Andrew, along with many, many other loved ones. He had a large family, and he loved them all.

Mikey and I extend our deepest condolences to Wayne's family and all of his loved ones. North Dakota lost a strong advocate for our State, but his legacy will continue on.

Rest easy, Wayne. Thank you for your friendship. Thank you for all that you accomplished.

Mr. President, I yield to my colleague from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I, of course, associate with every word Senator HOEVEN said. I think it is fortuitous we are joined in the Chamber today by the next speaker who came here to talk about something altogether different, but Senator WICKER knew our attorney general, Wayne Stenehjelm, maybe longer than I did, actually.

As Senator HOEVEN said, a couple of weeks ago, the good people of North Dakota lost a really good friend. We said goodbye to one of our State's most dedicated and beloved public servants. Attorney General Wayne Stenehjelm died unexpectedly and suddenly on January 28, just 1 month after announcing his intention to not seek reelection and retire at the end of this year.

Wayne was, as John said, North Dakota's longest serving attorney general, having been in office since 2001. Prior to this, he was in the State legislature, winning his first election while at the University of North Dakota—a law student at the age of 22 and continuing his service in the legislature for 24 more years.

He gave 46 years of continuous service to the people of North Dakota, and we are just now beginning to comprehend the impact of the significance of all that he did for our State and during those important years.

I first became acquainted with Wayne when he was serving as a State senator, and I was a desk page in the legislature. Our friendship and political collaborations continued during the years as I worked for the North Dakota Republican Party and later held State-appointed and elected offices. In the 9 years I have been in Congress, Wayne has been a valued friend, a trusted advisor, and an invaluable champion of States' rights and the U.S. Constitution.

His work representing North Dakota in State and Federal courts and as a member of the State Industrial Commission was monumental. It positioned our State to be an energy powerhouse and, at the same time, an unwavering steward of our environment. Among the most notable Federal issues that Wayne championed for our State was objecting to the onerous Waters of the United States regulations proposed by the Obama administration. Wayne skillfully led a coalition of 13 States in opposition, resulting in a nationwide

stay of that rule. He was also instrumental in procuring a historic stay of the Clean Power Plan from the U.S. Supreme Court. In both cases, he skillfully underscored the rights and the responsibilities of States, while drawing a blueprint for cooperative federalism in environmental policy.

Wayne's servant leadership over the past four decades was woven into countless battles, triumphs, and solutions. An ardent supporter of open records and meetings laws and transparency in government, every public group, including Governor HOEVEN, Public Service Commissioner CRAMER, and anybody in government understood that regardless of the size or the importance of your commission or your committee, we all felt Wayne's scrutiny on behalf of transparency for the people.

He developed innovative ways to crack down on illegal meth production and to better control the opioid epidemic. Human trafficking and domestic abuse issues were also always—always—on the top of his priority list and on his radar. He was a fierce advocate and supporter of law enforcement, the brave men and women who protect the safety of our communities. They all knew that Wayne had their backs.

His work was impressive. Yet Wayne was not a grandstander. He worked quietly and had much more respect for good outcomes than for personal gain and benefit. Wayne smiled all the time. He literally smiled all the time. And on the very rare occasion he didn't, you were probably in trouble, and you probably deserved it, but it was rare. He was a fun-loving person. He knew what to take seriously and what to enjoy. His balance of life is really what I think endeared him to so many people.

Wayne was the same person last month that he was in college, which is his greatest testament, I think, to public service. When you accomplish as much as Wayne did and reach the pinnacle of service as he did and he was the same guy who represented the University of North Dakota in the State legislature 46 years ago, that says it all about his character and about Wayne's stature.

Recognized among the very elite attorneys general in the country, the Nation's 36 current and former attorneys general who attended his funeral in Bismarck, speaks volumes about the high regard to which he was held by his peers.

North Dakota and our Nation have lost a true patriot, and Wayne Stenehjelm left an incredible legacy we can all celebrate. He dedicated his life to public service in our State, and our State is a much, much better place because of him. Thousands of people knew Wayne. Thousands more—and really millions—were impacted by Wayne's good work, particularly in the attorney general's office.

In the context of eternity, our life is but a snap of a finger, but in the context of history, Wayne Stenehjelm's

contributions are massive and long-standing.

On behalf of all North Dakotans, Kris and I send heartfelt sympathy to his wife Beth; his son Andrew; his very, very large extended family; and the legion of dedicated friends and admirers.

As a lifelong Eagle Scout, Wayne was no doubt familiar with the famous scouting adage, "Leave a place better than when you found it." Without a doubt, Wayne left North Dakota and this Nation a better place. May we all be inspired by his lifetime of public service and the profound impact it had on all that is excellent about North Dakota today. Rest in peace, Wayne.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise today during this Black History Month to call attention to two remarkable daughters of the State of Mississippi, two basketball legends: Lusia Harris and Ruthie Bolton. These two Mississippi athletes took women's basketball to new heights. And they continue to inspire countless young girls to follow their dreams in sports.

#### REMEMBERING LUSIA "LUCY" HARRIS

Mr. President, last week, when the Academy Awards announced their nominations, we learned that a New York Times documentary on the life of basketball legend Lusia Harris had been nominated for an Oscar.

This hit documentary has already received nearly 700,000 views on YouTube, where viewers can find it under the name of "The Queen of Basketball."

I was certainly thrilled to hear the news of this nomination, and I encourage every American to watch the 20-minute film. It is a story of American grit and determination and the story of an extraordinary Mississippian breaking multiple glass ceilings in the world of sports.

Known by her friends as Lucy, Ms. Harris led an extraordinary life, becoming a three-time national champion and Olympian and the first and only woman officially drafted by the NBA—the first and only woman ever officially drafted by the NBA.

Unfortunately, we lost Ms. Harris, all too soon, last month at the age of 66. Lucy Harris, a Mississippi Delta native, was the 10th of 11 children born to sharecropper parents. As a child, she would stay up past her bedtime watching the basketball greats: Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Oscar Robertson. In her words, "I wanted to grow up and shoot that ball just like they would shoot it, and I did."

At a towering height of 6 foot 3 inches, Lucy became a superstar at Amanda Elzy High School in Greenwood, MS. When she graduated in 1973, title IX was fresh off the books, opening up options for college basketball.

Lucy was quickly recruited to Delta State University on a scholarship, where she led her team to three consecutive national championships as the